

ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE COMMISSION

No. 13 First Q 2007

Justice Garibaldi, Steve Adubato Headline 3rd Congress of Italian American Organizations

Italian Americans from around the state braved heavy rains on Saturday, October 28, to attend the 3rd Annual Congress of Italian American Organizations at the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University, sponsored by the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. Highlighting the day's events were keynote speeches by The Honorable Marie L. Garibaldi, former New Jersey Supreme



From l. to r.: N. Larry Paragano, Steve Adubato, Frank Gargione, Eileen Poiani, Peter Cociello.



From l. to r.: Frank Gargione, Eileen Poiani, The Honorable Marie L. Garibaldi, N. Larry Paragano, Mary Ann Re.



Frank Campione (l.) with students attending the Congress.



A display for the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum



From l. to r.: Mario Marano, Joseph Alessi, Bob Freda, Gilda Rorro Baldassari, John Alati, N. Larry Paragano, Mary Ann Re, Peter Cociello, Tina Segali

Court Justice, and Steve Adubato, Ph.D., the Emmy Award-winning anchor and media analyst.

In keeping with the theme of this year's Congress, "Preserving our Heritage through Education," Justice Garibaldi spoke of the tremendous strides Italian Americans have made since the massive immigration waves in the early part of the 20th century. She noted the importance of education to the immigrant families and how this contributed to the rise in the current professional and social status as well as income level of Italian Americans.

Echoing this thought, Steve Adubato underscored how far Italian Americans have come but stressed that there was still a long way for them to go in achieving unity as a community, in helping to eradicate negative stereotypes in the media and in society at large, and in recapturing that which is essential in maintaining our heritage.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the events of the day included sessions on: implementing the "Universality of Italian Heritage" curriculum and the AMICIZIA program in New Jersey schools, led by Dr. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, the Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Trenton; Italian Programs in Higher Education, with Commissioner Catherine Giambanco Vignale; and

Community Education and Action, led by Dr. Eileen L. Poiani and Frank Gargione, co-chairs of the Commission's Community Advisory Council, plus Commissioner Carmelo Corallo, and Executive Director, Dr. Mary Ann Re.

Panelists included Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education; teachers and students of the Italian language from around the state; professors from Rutgers University, Montclair State University and Seton Hall University.

In addition to teachers, students and community activists, representatives from the following organizations were on hand to display information and answer questions from attendees: the Federation of Italian American Societies of NJ; Amici della Lingua Italiana, Delaware Valley; Mercer County Italian American Festival; Ocean County Italian American Society; UNICO National; Italian Teachers Association of NJ; Means Language Center; The Newark First Ward Heritage & Cultural Society; and the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum.

The NJ Italian American Heritage Commission thanks the sponsors of the 3rd Congress of Italian American organizations: Hunter Roberts Construction Group; Rutgers University; and Gerlanda's Food Services. ■



THE NEW JERSEY

ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



Chairman's Message

As we start a new year of activities and programs, we reflect back on the productive year that just ended. Among the positive events that took place, the Commission installed a new Executive Director, Mary Ann Re, who has established an energetic and inclusive agenda in just a short time.

In October, the 3rd NJ Congress of Italian American Organizations featured former NJ Supreme Court Justice the Honorable Marie L. Garibaldi, as well as Steve Adubato, the well-known Emmy Award-winning media analyst. It was the culmination of a month filled with celebrations, conferences, and parades honoring our heritage, and punctuated by Governor Corzine's Proclamation of October as Italian Heritage Month.

The NJ Italian American Heritage Foundation was honored in September to host the latest addition to the US Supreme Court, Justice Samuel Alito, at the



Commission Chairman N. Larry Paragano (c.) receives the Monsignor Joseph Granato Italian Culture Medal from Msgr. Joseph Granato (l.) and Father Paul Holmes.

Governor's Mansion. And the Curriculum Development Committee disseminated the K-12 Universality of Italian Heritage Curriculum throughout the state.

We have a broad and ambitious plan for this year and look to you to be our partner, to help bring our community closer together as we work toward the common goal of promoting our Italian heritage to the residents of the state. We join you in celebration of this remarkable and vibrant culture and look forward to our most productive year ever. ■

Upcoming Commission Events

Saturday, March 10, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Convocation of Italian American organizations. Enterprise Center at Burlington County College. Sponsored in conjunction with Amici Della Lingua Italiana and Burlington County College.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

3:30 – 5:30

Meeting of the NJIAHC. State House, Trenton.

Friday, March 30, 2007

8:30 – 3:00

Higher Education Committee
"Showcase Italian: Pedagogical Approaches to Italian Language, Italian Studies, and Italian American Studies." Rutgers University Busch Campus Student Center.



In support of The New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, the Foundation raises funds for activities and programs that build and strengthen the cultural identity of people of Italian descent. The Commission has developed a curriculum that is currently being offered in schools throughout the state of New Jersey. Through education and a better understanding of the many contributions of Italian and Italian American people, we seek to promote a bias-free, positive image of our nationality. We rely on contributions from our Italian American friends and family to help us spread the word about our rich culture and language. Won't you join with us?

Your gift of \$25, \$50 or \$100 will help us to offer programs necessary to accomplish our mission. Of course, a gift of any amount is always appreciated.

To make a contribution, please send your check and this completed form to The New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation, 18 Bishop Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Support Your Heritage!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Governor Proclaims October Italian Heritage Month

New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine declared October as "Italian Heritage and Culture Month," presenting the proclamation to Ralph A. Contini as its founding sponsor on behalf of the more than 1.5 million Italian Americans in the state of NJ. This annual proclamation, initiated by Mr. Contini in 2002, is issued in recognition of the many contributions

made by Italian Americans in the Garden State. Mr. Contini serves as Chairman of UNICO National's Columbus Day Committee, as a Board Member of the Coccia Foundation/Institute, and as a member of the Community Advisory Council of the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. ■



Governor Jon S. Corzine with Ralph A. Contini.



In Ocean County for Columbus Day-related events, at Luna Rossa Trattoria in Seaside Heights. Back row: Mario and Maria Marano; Front row: Prof. Anna Maria Di Figlia, author from Nicosia; Mariella Bellotta, fashion designer from Palermo; Anna Emanuela La Rocca, President of COES., Palermo; Gilda Rorro Baldassari; Leo Pignat.



Mary and Mario Marano dressed in medieval costumes for a reception given in their honor by the Sbandieratori e Musici "Citta di Piansano" in the province of Viterbo, Italy. The Sbandieratori e Musici, a folkloric group that comprises musicians, flag-wavers and an historical cortege representing many famous figures in Italian history, has performed at the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade and at Drumthwacket.



Members of the International Folkloric Group "La Pacchianella" from Monte Sant'Angelo (FO) Italy, perform at the 15th Annual Columbus Day Parade held in Seaside Heights on October 8, 2006. The group performed at the parade and during the 3-day Italian Festival.



At NIAF in Washington D.C., presenting the mission and activities of the Amici della Cultura Italiana, a new and growing network of 12 university-based Italian Clubs in the Northeast, under the direction of the Coccia Foundation. L. to r.: Ralph Contini, Joseph Coccia, N. Larry Paragano, Mary Ann Re.



Gilda Rorro Baldassari (r.) presenting "The Universality of Italian Heritage" curriculum at the national Consular Convocation in Washington D.C., with Carla Lucenti, Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Pittsburgh, PA, and His Excellency, Giovanni Castellaneta, Italian Ambassador to Washington.



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Regional Convocation To Be Held in Burlington County

The first regional convocation of the year, offered in partnership with Burlington County College, will be held on Saturday, March 10, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Enterprise Center of Burlington County College, in Mt. Laurel. Entitled *From Pinocchio to Palladio: Getting Our "Universality of Italian Heritage" Curriculum into NJ Schools*, this gathering of Italian American organizations will focus on the important role Italian American organizations can play in reaching this goal. Presenters include Dr. Robert Messina, Jr., President,

Burlington County College; Vito Finizio, President, Amici Institute at Burlington County College; Dr. Paul Vandenberg, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Gloucester County Board of Education; and the Honorable Stefano Mistretta, Consul General of Italy to Philadelphia. The generosity of Burlington County College in hosting the convocation helps to make the admission to this event free, though pre-registration is strongly recommended. For more information or to register, call 732.932.0670 or email lhyland@iahi.rutgers.edu. ■

Italian Showcase

The Higher Education Committee of the NJIAHC is sponsoring a symposium on Friday, March 30, at the Rutgers University Busch Campus Student Center in Piscataway. Entitled "Showcase Italian: Pedagogical Approaches to Italian Language, Italian Studies, and Italian American Studies," the conference features presentations by renowned scholars on innovative teaching techniques and tips for launching and enhancing a program in a

higher education institution. Participants include Dr. William Connell of Seton Hall University, Dr. Fred Gardaphe of SUNY Stony Brook, Dr. Edvige Giunta of New Jersey City University, Dr. Bob Viscusi of CUNY/Brooklyn College, and Dr. Anthony Tamburri from the John D. Calandra Institute. Pre-registration is required as well as a nominal fee of \$15. For more information or to register, call 732.932.0670 or email lhyland@iahi.rutgers.edu. ■



At a September 25 reception, Montclair State University thanked donors to the Montclair Summer Institute in Sicily, a new 4-week summer study abroad program. Professors Dawn Marie Hayes and Nancy Carnevale, who is also a Commissioner (both standing in the last row, from left to right) were joined by donors, the late Mr. Angelo Cali (seated, left) and Mr. Joseph Coccia (seated, right), his wife, Elda (standing), along with some of the students who participated in the program in July 2006. The Commission was also recognized for its contribution to the program. Based in Taormina, the MSU Summer Institute in Sicily is one of only a very few American summer study abroad programs in southern Italy.



Members of the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture met recently with their NJ counterparts. From l. to r. seated: Laura S. White, Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Cathy Vignale, Delaware Commissioner Justine Mataleno, Nancy Carnevale. From l. to r. standing: Tina Segali, Delaware Commissioners Jimmy Gambacorta and Patrick O'Boyle, N. Larry Paragano, Delaware Chair Ciro Poppiti III, Mario Marano, Carmelo Corallo, Frank Gargione.

3rd Anniversary Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute



Senator Renato Turano's granddaughter welcomes guests to the 3rd anniversary festivities for the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute at Montclair State University.



Executive Director of the Commission Mary Ann Re helps celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute at Montclair State University. The guest of honor was Senator Renato Turano (left of Mary Ann), who represents the more than 400,000 Italian citizens from North and Central America.



ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



Foundation Event with Justice Samuel Alito, Jr.



Pictured first row (l. to r.): Cathy Vignale, Laura White, Foundation Chair Peter Coccoziello, Gilda Rorro Baldassari. Second row (l. to r.): N. Larry Paragano, The Honorable Justice Samuel A. Alito, Sal Davino, Foundation Vice President Tom Pecora. Third row (l. to r.) Mauro Checchio, Ted Zangari, Joe Alessi, Bob Rafano, Mario Marano, Greg Niccolai

On Saturday, September 23, 2006, the NJ Italian American Heritage Foundation held a special event at Drumthwacket, the Governor's residence, with special guest Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr. At the event, Justice Alito spoke extensively about his Senate confirmation process and the important role that being Italian American played in both his upbringing and his legal career.

The event was attended by over 200 people who came to recognize the achievements of NJ's native Italian American son, Justice Alito. Attendees included noted members of the government, legal, and business communities. Proceeds from the event will benefit the educational efforts of the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. ■



Left: Justice Alito with members of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra, who played at the event honoring the Justice. Also pictured are Maestro Fernando Raucci and Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra Executive Director Margaret Plantés Borah.



At Columbia Middle School in Berkeley Heights on January 4. From l. to r.: Frank Gargione; Judith Rattner, Superintendent of the Berkeley Heights public school district; Dr. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Vice Chair of the Commission; Rose Alito; Justice Alito; Mary Ann Re, Exec. Dir. of the Commission; Professor Carlo Cirillo.

Commission Names New Executive Director

Chairman Cav. N. Larry Paragano recently announced the appointment of Mary Ann Re, Ph.D., as Executive Director of the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. Dr. Re will oversee day-to-day operations of the Commission as well as the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Institute.



Mary Ann earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from St. John's University, where she had also been awarded her B.A. summa cum laude. She has worked at various positions in social services policy research, market research, human resources, and publishing. Before joining the Commission, she collaborated on a number of research projects with the New York-based Institute for Italian American Studies (INIAS).

The eldest of twelve children, Mary Ann is the daughter of the late Edward D. Re, Chief Judge Emeritus of the US Court of International Trade, and Attorney Margaret Corcoran Re. Edward and his sister Annunziatina (Nancy) were born in Santa Marina Salina, Isole Eolie, Provincia di Messina (Sicilia) and emigrated with their parents, Antonio Re and Marina Maetta Re, in 1928 to Brooklyn. Ten years ago Mary Ann began a labor of love, now complete, the restoration of the Maetta-Re home in Santa Marina Salina.

In addition to her vice-presidency of the Lipari-based Associazione Eoliani nel Mondo, Mary Ann is actively involved with a number of other organizations: Board of Directors, Italian Heritage Culture Committee of N.Y.; Board of Advisors, Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute; NYS OSIA's Petrosino Lodge in Little Italy; National Italian American Foundation; Italian American Heritage Club of Hunterdon County; and Filicudi Associates of Waltham, Massachusetts. ■



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Foundation Adds Staff

David Iommarini, a seasoned fundraiser with over 30 years of experience in planning complex gift arrangements, recently joined the staff of the NJ Italian American Heritage Foundation. He has written and lectured widely on matters pertaining to charitable giving and relative tax law. Mr. Iommarini is a past President of the Planned Giving Group of Greater New York. ■



Language Lessons

In response to the many inquiries received, the Commission is compiling a resource list of where residents can get instruction in the Italian language. If you or your organization offers tutoring or classes in Italian, the Commission would like to know. Send information to info@iahi.rutgers.org. Grazie! ■

The New Jersey Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, located at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is the operational body of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission for program implementation and administration. The Commission, located in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Education, was created pursuant to the enactment of P.L. 2001, Chapter 343 C.18A4-42 and signed into law in January 2002. The Institute, a 501.c.3. entity with statewide jurisdiction, is charged with providing services to the public at large, as well as public, non-profit and other public service institutions in all twenty-one counties in New Jersey.

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STAFF

Mary Ann Re, Exec. Dir.
Maria Cancro
Louise Hyland

New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission

Rutgers University
18 Bishop Place, Third Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901